Ray Lewis Sails For England For Eyewitness Story Of Coronation Ceremonies To Appear In Digest Coronation Souvenir.

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"Easy to Digest"

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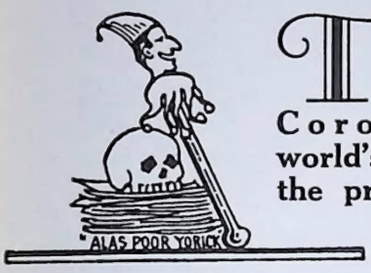
NEW YORK DRESSES UP ROYALLY FOR CORONATION



THE U.S. never does anything in a small way, and Coronation being the world's biggest event at the present time, by way of "putting on a show", New York rises gayly to the occasion.

Fifth Ave. is lovely to behold, coronation colours in gowns, stockings, shoes, lingerie, ties, socks, hats, cloaks, handbangs, even to travelling bags, on display everywhere.

Crowning all this finery are medals and decorations, crowns for jewel boxes, for jewels, for perfume stoppers, in fact, crowns are to be seen everywhere, making New York look quite like a royal city.

May 1st, a large department store presents a display costing five thousand dollars; and another firm tells us, that their orders for displays amount to fifty thousand dollars, with that sum only as a beginning.

It is a fine spirit from a splendid country which has always given its distinguished British visitors a cordial, friendly and glorious welcome. The British can always depend on Uncle Sam, for blood is thicker than water and he is a "blood relation".

FOR WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE

THE activities of the Independent market lead us to conclude, that the double feature picture is still to be considered, as provision must be made for the fill-in pictures between the pictures held for long runs, in order that the public may have an opportunity to rest up between the big feasts.

Some of our chiefs have been questioned on the double feature's fate, but no one has had a final word to say on this knotty question. Mr. Nicholas Schenck hit the obvious nail on its obvious head when he left the answer "up to the public".

We will see more foreign pictures on our Screens than we have previously seen, for most foreign countries have developed a production-of-pictures-complex.

Incidentally, there has been a growing public interest in foreign films, and when the public's desires become sufficiently popular to make an enterprise look profitable, distribution of foreign-made pictures becomes routine business.

NEW FIRST-RUN THEATRES

WE have not seen the end of theatre building, for with the big road show pictures a consideration on every production programme, the first-run house for long runs again assumes its former important position.

The need for more first run theatres is evident, for where will the big pictures get their first run showings, and when, if the long run features tie-up the available playdates?

For instance, let us look at Toronto with its first-run downtown theatres, Loew's, Imperial, Uptown, Shea's, Tivoli. Tivoli has been doing double features, Shea's as you know plays vaudeville, with pictures, which leaves this city, of close to a million, with Loew's, Imperial and Uptown. How many pictures for first-run can these theatres absorb if the long run becomes an institution?

We will see suburban houses, and key houses in certain zones assume the importance of being first-run, lest good pictures, which should be sold at once to the public, grow flat, stale and unprofitable waiting in their cans as Time Marches On, for a first-run showing.

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

"MAYTIME" ran three weeks at Loew's, Toronto, and could easily have held over for a fourth week, for when Torontonians like a picture, they are not satisfied to see it once, but must go along again and again, just to be with their friends, watching their enjoyment.

Toronto is not unique in holding on to "Maytime", for I note that this picture with its love theme set to hauntingly melodious music played the Capitol, New York, four weeks, stayed three weeks in Baltimore, four weeks in San Francisco, four weeks Philadelphia, three weeks Cincinnati, three weeks Toledo, two weeks in Harrisburg, Reading and Scranton, Pa., three weeks in Hartford, Conn., two weeks at Chicago, two at Wilmington, Del., Worcester, Mass., two at Rochester, N.Y., at Springfield, Mass., at Syracuse, N.Y., three weeks at New Haven, Conn., three at Indianapolis, three at Cleveland, three weeks at two theatres in Boston, the State and the Orpheum, same day and dates; four weeks at Detroit, three weeks at Washington, D.C.; in fact, wherever "Maytime" has played, extended dates have been the reward for Leo. Jeanette MacDonald certainly received an orchid, by way of a production, when she was selected to star in "Maytime", which is the best picture she has made.

THE Telegram at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, has a feature article headed "IODE Report on Film Shows". The IODE is the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, a similar organization in Canada to that organization in the United States, which is called, "American Daughters of the Revolution".

The IODE has its Film Convener, the latter who presented her report during the recent annual convention.

The report published in The Telegram, of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, was as follows, "In presenting the film report of the IODE for the year, I fear that there is very little to be said. It is difficult to get any specific picture shown here as the schedules are made up months in advance and they have to take what is sent. I tried to interest the manager of the Majestic in the pictures recommended by the Nova Scotia Film Convener, "Royal Cavalcade" and "The King's Jubilee", but was told they were too expensive at that time, but would be shown later. As you know they were not shown in Yarmouth.

In regard to films for children, they do not cater to children at all and the pictures shown during the week-end are selected for the fishermen and farmers who come to town from miles distant by truck-loads, and who demand the Westerns and gangster types of film. However, there are two other matinees during the week, and the manager thinks that it is up to the parents to see that the children attend only when the pictures are suitable for them.

"There were 19 British films shown in our theatres during 1936. Some of them excellent as 'King Henry VIII' with Charles Laughton, but I regret to say that the majority of British films cannot compare with those produced in Hollywood. One reason for this is the fact that in England the government demands that 20 per cent of films shown must be of Birtish production. There is now a movement on foot to increase the quota to 50 per cent, and the MOTION PICTURE DIGEST, a Canadian publication, says:

"'The imposition of a 20 per cent British film quota developed to a 50 per cent quota will be as popular with the British public as was the imposition of a Stamp Tax and a Tea Tax on the former British colony which is now the great United States.

"'The history of the Stamp Tax and the Tea Tax is one of political intrigue, party politics, with selfish politicians playing their cards for self aggrandizement and gain. The result is history.'

"Probably the best liked pictures are those which show British stories, acted by Britons but produced in Hollywood. Just one more quotation from the DIGEST:

"'The United States is in need of English literature; the finesse, experience and knowledge which England possesses of the drama. It is in need of what the British Empire can offer by way of British screen talent, not overlooking the best of all screen voices, that of the cultured Canadian.'

"Two British films have been shown in Yarmouth this month, 'Things to Come' and 'Rhodes, the Empire Builder', and there is one to be shown in the near future 'Clairvoyant'. We can recommend very highly 'Lloyds of London' an English story produced in America.

"This report is respectfully submitted. (Convener of Film Committee)."

(Continued on Page 5)

British House of Lords Votes to Continue Quota Laws For 10 Years.

RAY PRESENTS

(*Continued from Page 4*)

"THINGS TO COME", H. G. Wells - Korda feature was released through Regal Films, as was "Rhodes, the Empire Builder", a G-B picture with Walter Huston as "Rhodes". "Clairvoyant" was another British Regal release in Canada, while "Lloyd's of London" is the story of "Lloyd's", produced by Twentieth-Century-Fox and in which Sir Guy Standing appeared in a leading characterization, shortly before his death.

The Twentieth-Century-Fox British made picture, "Wings of the Morning" is in its sixth week at the Uptown, Toronto, and has played twelve weeks at His Majesty's, Montreal. The star is Annabella, lovely Annabella, sweet Annabella who helps to make up the wholesome appeal of this picture. But, the charm of "Wings of the Morning" is not alone centralized in this youthful star.

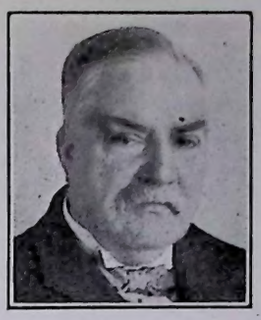
THERE is a good, wholesome story, simple scenes, similar to those which made "It Happened One Night" such a success.

There are many scenes, Irish scenes of rare beauty photographically, and the technicolor is very close to perfect, in fact so beautiful is the color in the gayness of its tone values, that even sceptics of color upon the screen must begin to wonder whether technicolor is not as important as has been claimed.

There is the star of stage fame, Leslie Banks, there is Henry Fonda, both who do excellent work. There is McCormick's singing, the latter, however, who would not have been missed from the picture which has enough to make it box-office without the fame of his name; and yet, "Wings of the Morning" is not what might be called a finished production, nor has it that smoothness of quality which we have been accustomed to expect from Hollywood.

What has it then you will ask which gives it front line position among the money-makers? It has sincerity, a freshness, beauty, interest, entertainment. It is human, and in this latter quality, is that qualification which makes it better than some of our million dollar productions.

Conklin In Winnipeg



J. J. Conklin

SPECIAL talking films on fire-fighting and prevention work forwarded to Edmonton, Alta., by the Dominion Fire Commissioner, Ottawa, will be shown to the public shortly, Fire Chief Albert Dutton announces. No charge will be made for the show.

Many striking pictures of firemen in action in the larger cities of the world, as well as several showing the causes of fire, are contained in the films. In addition to these, there are also moving pictures of slum-clearance building work now being undertaken in the British Isles.

"I would like as many citizens as possible to see the films," Chief Dutton said Saturday. "They are very colorful, interesting and educational and the public will receive much valuable information through seeing them. They depict the ever-present danger of fire and give many valuable pointers in fire prevention methods. Those interested in home building will also enjoy the pictures showing the slum-clearance project now proceeding in the Old Country."

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

A MAN who has photographed miracles in Capt. John Noel, English lecturer and explorer, is visiting in Winnipeg. He is notable in British film work. Captain Noel is touring Canada under the sponsorship of the National Council of Education showing films that he has taken in many parts of the world.

His photographic experiences have ranged from Mt. Everest expeditions of 1920 and 1924 when he was official photographer for the party that reached the highest point yet attained, to scenes of rural England.

Most interesting he told your correspondent today, was a year he spent at Lourdes taking pictures of the shrine and miraculous spring there. He had taken actual pictures of people who had come to the shrine incurably ailing and had been miraculously healed, he said.

A photographic explorer for 20 years he develops and color processes all his own films. He hopes to film autumn scenes in the Canadian Laurentian mountains on one of his visits to the Dominion but as yet has done no work in Canada. He returns to England following his tour and, during summer months, will do pictorial films of the west of Ireland.

CAPITOL, EDMONTON, LEADS

THE Capitol Theatre in Edmonton, Alta., leads in attendance figures for all theatres in Canada controlled by the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, it was announced in a message congratulating Manager Walter Wilson and his staff April 30. The attendance figures are based on the size of the theatre and the size of the city.

"Edmonton has held this position for three weeks and we are endeavoring to retain it," declared Manager Wilson, who attributes the success to the efforts of his staff and to the high quality of the attractions booked by the theatre.

"With the Spring Festival of Certified Entertainment now in progress, we have some outstanding pictures to offer and I am confident that we will continue to receive the wonderful support and co-operation."

Jules Levy Announces 54 Features For RKO Radio 1937 - 1938.

DIGEST REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS

"HISTORY IS MADE AT NIGHT"

WALTER WANGER — U.A.

"Jay L."

PRODUCED by Walter Wanger, one of the boy-wonders of Hollywood, this picture emerges a curiously satisfying romance, with a thrilling climax that for camera magic and sleight-of-hand, compares favorably with the "earthquake" scenes in "San "Francisco". The build-up for this final scene is terrific, with the suspense mounting higher and higher unt.l you feel that unless something happens immediately you will scream from sheer excitement. Director Frank Borzage merits a bouquet for his direction of the whole picture, but especially for his careful restraint as evident in the climactic sequences.

BRUCE VAIL, wealthy ship-owner, is very much in love with his wife, Irene, the latter who fails to respond to this affection. Irene separates from her husband, and he, in order to force her to return to him, attempts to compromise her, by bribing his chauffer to enter her bed-chamber. She is rescued from an unpleasant situation by a stanger, Paul Dumond, with whom she instantly falls in love. After a thrilling evening together in Paris, Irene and Paul separate, Irene returning to America and taking a job as a mannequin.

SOME months later, Bruce sends a detective after Irene, and when she comes to his office, tells her that the French police have discovered the man who struck the chauffeur that night in Paris, and, as the chauffeur died, are booking the suspected culprit for murder. Irene, thinking that it is Paul that the police have captured, promises Bruce that if he will secure the release of the suspect she will return to live with him. Bruce agrees, and the couple go out to celebrate. They go to a famous restaurant, and there Irene finds Paul is the head waiter. Overjoyed, Irene breaks her bargain with Bruce, tearing up her tickets on the zeppelin, and returns to the restaurant and to Paul.

WHEN Paul learns that another man is being held for the crime which he perpetrated, he insists on returning to Paris to face trial, knowing that in a case where a woman's honor is involved, the French police are most lenient. Paul and Irene book passage on the maiden voyage of her husband's new super-liner, the Princess Irene, but before leaving give statements to the press. Bruce, waiting the arrival of his boat in London, reads the reports in the papers, and becomes so enraged, that he determines to sacrifice over a thousand lives so that the two lovers may die. He orders the commander of the Princess Irene to try for a record crossing, despite the fact that they are running in pea-soup fog, and that they are in iceberg territory. After a fierce moral struggle with himself, the commodore orders full steam ahead, and in a few hours the ship hits an iceberg head-on. An "S.O.S." is sent out, the boats, those of them that haven't been crushed by the impact, are launched, the women and children placed aboard, and only male passengers and members of the crew remain aboard the stricken vessel, except for Irene, who refuses to leave Paul.

WHEN all hope has been abandoned, and the passengers and crew are assembled singing "Nearer My God To Thee", it is discovered that the bulkheads are holding, and that the ship will not sink. Help is at hand, and those remaining on board break forth into joyous cheers and shouting. Bruce, however, will never know, for when the report of the ship's striking the berg reached him, he shot himself through the head, leaving a note admitting not only that the shipwreck was his responsibility, but also that he had killed the chauffeur.

CHARLES BOYER as Paul, and Jean Arthur as Irene, make a pleasing combination on the screen. Boyer's accent is in perfect accord with his role, and his acting is excellent. Miss Arthur, whose rise to fame and popularity has been nothing short of miraculous, succeeds in injecting a certain amount of comedy relief into her role, and as a result gives a most satisfying performance. Colin Clive makes the most of his role as the jealous husband, and Leo Carrillo as the chef, Cesare, contributes some sparkling comedy.

THE picture should prove a good money-maker, with the cast names drawing many patrons, and the iceberg sequences many more. Women will particularly like "History Is Made At Night", and the men will enjoy much of the footage.

"ANOTHER DAWN"

WARNER BROS.

A NEW angle on the eternal triangle is presented in "Another Dawn", with the husband, the wife and the other man, all acting like perfect ladies and gentlemen, and doing a regular "After you, my dear Alphonse". Footage is divided almost equally between Kay Francis, Errol Flynn and Ian Hunter, and the three carry almost all the action on their own shoulders.

PLOT shows Hunter as Colonel of a regiment stationed at an outpost on the Indian frontier. On furlough in England, he meets Kay Francis, whose fiancee has been killed in a plane crash. Hunter begs her to marry him and return to India with him, and Kay, after some hesitation, consents. However, it is understood that although Kay respects and admires her husband, she does not love him, and the suggestion is that the marriage is one in name only. Back in India, Kay meets Errol Flynn, her husband's second-in-command, and despite of her desparate efforts against it, falls in love with the handsome Irishman.

THE two endeavour to keep their love a secret, and to forget all about it, but it proves impossible, and in the end the husband gets wise to the set-up. A perfect gentleman to the last, he tosses a coin with Flynn to see who will take a suicide flight to blow up a dam. Flynn wins the toss, and goes to say his fond adieus to Kay. While he is gone, Hunter steals Flynn's plane, and flies off to his death in Flynn's place, leaving the way clear for the future happiness of Kay and Flynn.

(Continued on Page 7)

Makeup Artists, Painters, Carpenters and Other Small Wage Workers Stage Strike At Studios. Screen Actors' Guild Also Contemplating Walk Out.

LONDON ROUNDABOUT

BY DENNISON THORNTON

WARNER BROS. IN ENGLAND

UNDER the supervision of Irving Asher, the Warner Brothers-First National plant at Teddington has been especially active of late.

Some years ago Mr. Asher was appointed in charge of the Warner's British unit, with instructions to produce pictures for quota requirements. The money he was allowed to spend on each feature picture was about as much as M-G-M invest in a couple of Pete Smith "shorts". It was not surprising, therefore, that under these conditions Mr. Asher's first productions were somewhat anaemic, to say the least.

But Mr. Asher had ideas of his own. He saw possibilities in producing inexpensive pictures that would not only fulfill quota requirements, but that would yield useful profits as well. He persuaded head-office in Hollywood to let him go ahead with his scheme with the result that his Teddington organization is now one of the most lively, go-ahead and successful units in the country.

The studios have been considerably expanded; new stages have been built, and the best technical equipment has been installed.

About a dozen features are produced there annually, and while this output qualifies mainly as quota, it succeeds at the same time in returning profits that are the envy of many of our independent concerns.

Mr. Asher's policy is never to spend more than £20,000 at the most on a picture; never to make films for London or sophisticated audiences only, but to design and manufacture them specifically for provincial consumption.

STAR MATERIAL

FOR star material he uses English vaudeville and radio favourites like Claude Hulbert, Max Miller, Claude Dampier and Henry Kendall. These names probably mean nothing to Canadian or American audiences, but in the English provincial areas they are sure-fire box-office. The Hulbert, Miller and Dampier subjects, in particular, are invariably a clean-up.

You may not believe it, yet it remains a positive fact that in many small provincial towns Mr. Asher's productions starring the Claude Hulbert's and the Max Miller's mean more at the box-office than some of the biggest Hollywood super-films featuring word-famous stars.

STANDING ROOM ONLY

DURING a recent visit to a town in Devonshire, for example, I had a chat with the manager of one of the two small theatres there. The film he was showing was a Hollywood production of considerable importance.

When I asked him how business was the manager led me inside and showed me a half-empty auditorium.

"Are things as bad as all that?" I asked in some astonishment.

"Bad nothing," he replied, "Next week I'm playing Claude Hulbert and Henry Kendall and there will be standing room only for matinee shows and at night they'll be lined-up right down the street".

That Hulbert-Kendall picture was one of Mr. Asher's productions and it probably didn't cost a penny over £15,000 — if, indeed, it cost that!

AMBITIOUS PROGRAM

OF recent months Mr. Asher has been growing a little more ambitious. As I have already stated he now spends up to £20,000 on a picture. He is grooming Claude Hulbert for world stardom, has brought over William Collier, Jr., to assist him on the executive side, and has just completed a musical-show called "Mayfair Melody", a sort of miniature edition of the Burbank "Gold-digger" shows.

He has discovered a new male star in Keith Falkner who, up to a few months ago, was a radio artist. And judging by the advance reports it would seem more than likely that this Mr. Falkner will soon be starring in Warner Hollywood productions.

TALENT-SCOUT DELUXE

FOR one of Mr. Asher's jobs is to talent-scout over here for his Burbank chiefs. It was through him that you saw Errol Flynn in "Captain Blood" and Patric Knowles in "Charge of the Light Brigade".

Now he has come to an arrangement with his "home-office" whereby popular Burbank players like Hugh Herbert, Frank McHugh, Allan Jenkins and Glenda Farrell will be imported to star in future Teddington pictures. Glenda Farrell is already on the way over to appear with Claude Hulbert in a forthcoming production.

* * *

DIGEST REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS

(*Continued from Page* 6)

THE acting is good throughout, with all the principals being up to scratch. A combination of comedy and tragedy is given by Herbert Mundin as Hunter's orderly, who dies a hero's death, thus wiping out a previous cowardice that had followed him all his life. Frieda Inescourt, who did such excellent work in "Call It a Day", is seen briefly as Flynn's sister, and in love with Hunter. Direction is by Michael Curtiz.

THERE are a few skirmishes with the natives, and some interesting glimpses of army life at these far-flung outposts of the Empire, included in the photoplay, and these, together with the triangle plot, should ensure the exhibitors of satisfied patrons. The names of Flynn and Miss Francis will be enough to get them in, and I am sure there will be no complaint of the fare offered inside.

"Jay L."

German Zeppelin "Hindenburg" Crashes in Flames at Lakehurst N.J. 41 Killed. Ship Was to Have Carried Coronation Films on Next Trip.

WASHINGTON FILM DIGEST

Special to The Canadian Moving Picture Digest
By George W. Mehrtens, Columbia Trade Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 4—(CTP)

WHILE a pending strike which bids fair to paralyze the entire Motion Picture Producing Industry continues on the west coast, labor leaders in the Capital city, including John L. Lewis of the Committee for Industrial Organization, William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, and Major George L. Berry of Labor's non partisan League prefer to remain silent and let their individual local representatives handle matters to the best of their ability.

Meanwhile Secretary of Labor Perkins revealed that the Department of Labor has available a list or panel of public-spirited citizens with some experience in the different industrial States from which can be selected special mediators or boards when the Federal Department is called upon to make use of such devices in disputes which are not susceptible to adjustment by ordinary means, or when the regular conciliators have exhausted their capacity.

"Many employers and workers in the Motion Picture and other industries," Secretary Perkins said, "lack experience in collective bargaining and because of this there will be need for cooperation among the State and Federal agencies engaged in conciliation work and representatives of labor and management so as to minimize stoppages of work through misunderstanding by either workers or employers."

MORE FOX SHARES SOLD

SALE by the Chase National Bank in March of 4,102 shares of 20th Century-Fox common and 4,404 shares of $1.50 cumulative preferred, held under escrow agreement was shown this week in the semi monthly report of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

At the close of the month, the bank still held under agreement 347,807 shares of common and 699, 414 shares of cumulative preferred.

The report also showed the exchange by John D. Hertz, through Lehman Brothers, of 167,000 six percent 20-year Paramount debentures for a similar number of 3¼ per cent convertible debentures and the sale of 65,000 of the latter in March.

A report on transactions in Consolidated Film Industries securities for past months was filed by the Setay Co. Inc. New York, showing the disposition in November, 1936 of 1,500 shares of common. A report on Universal Pictures showed the sale by the Universal Corporation, Wilmington, Del., of 100 shares of common; at the close of the month the corporation held 228,927 shares of common and 20,000 shares of second preferred.

WARNERS OPEN WASHINGTON THEATRE

WARNER BROTHERS will make their latest contribution to the entertainment history of Washington this week, Thursday when their beautiful new picture playhouse the Calvert Theatre will be dedicated.

John J. Payette, Warner Brothers general zone manager for the Washington Territory, announced today that all plans for the opening night ceremonies had been completed.

The Calvert is the sixteenth theatre operated by Warner Brothers in Washington and it embodies every modern improvement for the comfort and pleasure of its patrons. The Hon. Melvin C. Hazen, chairman of the District Commissioners, and Myron Walker, president of the Glover Park Citizens Association will play important parts in the ceremonies.

U.S. LEADS CHILEAN FILM IMPORTS

ACCORDING to figures just obtained from the Censorship Board, and submitted to this Bureau by Assistant Trade Commissioner Minedee McLean, at Santiago, Chile, during the thirteen months from January, 1936, to February, 1937, that board reviewed a total of 533 features, 77.3 percent of which were imported from the United States and a total of 703 newsreels, shorts, etc., 87.2 supplied by the United States.

According to these figures the United States supplied 83.1 percent of the total importation of the motion picture films for 1936, as compared to estimates of 85 percent for 1935, and 97 percent for 1934. It is feared that American films will continue to lose ground in this market due to existing exchange conditions. As films imported from the United States and Great Britain have to be purchased with gold at the rate of 35.00 pesos to the dollar as compared to dates equivalent to 26.15 and 19.46 pesos to the dollar when they originate in France or Germany respectively, due to treaty arrangements between Chile and those countries, the disadvantage under which the former are placed is obvious.

CZECHS CHECK THEATRES

ASSISTANT Trade Commissioner Theodore J. Hardraba, at Prague, Czechoslovakia, has submitted data announcing that on December 31, 1936, there were 1,847 motion picture theatres in Czechoslovakia as against 1,844 on November 1, 1935, when census was last taken.

Prague, the capital city, had 105 movie theatres all wired for sound, at the close of 1936, with a seating capacity of 58,068. During 1936, there were 14.5 million admissions in Prague movie houses, representing a per capita annual movie attendance of slightly above 14.

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Warner Bros. Considering Opening Theatres In Key Cities Throughout The World.

BRITISH FILM DIGEST

(Special to The Digest from Ward Shaftesbury, London Correspondent)

I WOULD like to be able to say that things looked brighter in the Industry this week — but they don't. At the moment there are only thirteen films in production with fifty-eight floors available — and the studios are not the only people with headaches. This rapid dropping off of film schedules is giving the exhibitors (who have quota requirements amounting to twenty per-cent) a lot to worry about. London Films have three pictures on the boards: "Action for Slander", "The Squeaker", and "Victoria the Great"; Pinewood also have three: "Jericho", "Gangway", and "Night Ride"; and Warner Bros.-First National two, "Have You Come For Me?" and "Change For a Sovereign". ATP at Ealing has one "Brief Ecstasy"; Fox one, "Wise Guys" and Gainsborough and Twickenham one each. So it certainly does not look as if the 1937 production figures are going to come up to, let alone exceed, those of the past year, when 222 features were registered.

"Victoria the Great" is well under way now and last week Herbert Wilcox staged that historic scene which we have looked at so often in the picture books, of our childhood of the girl Queen Victoria being told of her accession at Kensington Palace . . . Anna Neagle plays the matured queen from 1837 to 1901, with Anton Walbrook as the Prince Consort . . . the supporting cast includes Mary Norris as the Duchess of Kent . . . Julius Hagen is back at work again after the recent demise of his company, Twickenham Film Distributor— J. H. is now making his first film for distribution by Gilbert Church's newly-formed distributing company — Ambassador Film Productions Ltd. — (I wonder how long this one will last — high-fallutin' name at any rate.) Hagen's new attempt is to be called "The Angelus", based upon that old and lovely song "The Last Rose of Summer" — Anthony Bushell heads the cast . . . "Action for Slander" is well under way at Denham with Clive Brook and Anthony Holles taking the male leads—Holles just spent a painful morning on the set when Director Tim Whelan carefully rehearsed Brook in a knock-out scene; Holles had to take it on the chin time after time . . . I liked the opening scene of "The Squeaker" which is being made at Denham with Edmund Lowe starring — it shows a Wapping pub set down on the London docks and through the windows can be seen the ships, cranes, tugs and wharves of the Thames — very realistic . . . . Just heard that Merele Oberon has gone to the South Coast for a few weeks' convalescence before taking up her next film assignment at Denham. In the meantime "I Claudius" remains half-finished and I understand that the director, Josef von Sternberg, has just left on a world tour—doesn't *anybody* do any worrying about these things?

"ELEPHANT BOY" A HIT

I UNDERSTAND that "Elephant Boy", Korda's latest release, which took the fancy of a distinguished audience when it was premiered recently at the Leicester Square Theatre, has just made a big hit in New York. The Rialto, Broadway audience was so enthused over this exciting jungle film that they stood up and cheered which is certainly unusual for a film crowd. The picture is also doing very well in Paris where it is in its fifth week and still packing them in.

"MIDNIGHT WITH THE STARS"

I AM looking forward with unconcealed anticipation to the "Midnight With the Stars" presentation which our Industry is arranging for the night of May 6. The show is put on annually for the benefit of the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund and I understand that this year's Coronation effort (under the patronage of His Majesty, by the way), will be greater than ever, and it is hoped to raise $75,000 — a tidy sum!

The programme sounds very entertaining. It will consist of a grand variety in which all the most important stars of the British screen and stage will appear and any visiting American or European star who will be present for the Coronation. The theme of the show is to be a casting director's office with the director putting each of his callers, whether it be Mary Pickford or Tom Walls, through various tests to see if he or she is a proficient singer, dancer or what have you. The fun will be added to by numerous ensembles and spectacles, including a massed band comprising the big orchestras, and, at the close, a cavalcade of London life wherein many celebrities will be brought together on the stage.

I understand that those who have already agreed to appear include Annabella, lovely French star of "Wings of the Morning", Leslie Banks, who recently appeared in "Fire Over England", Jack Buchanan, Tullio Carminatti, Claude Dampier, Robertson Hare, Gordon Harker, Leslie Henson, Gertrude Lawrence, Vivian Leigh, Ralph Lynn, Jessie Matthews, Laurence Olivier, Nova Pilbeam, Flora Robson and many other well-known stars. The tickets, by the way, range from one to fifty dollars!

$5,000 A SEAT

HOW would you like to pay five thousand dollars a seat to see the premiere of the new Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. picture "Jump for Glory"? You wouldn't, eh? Well, someone just sent the Chairman of the Appeals Committee of the Mount Vernon Hospital for Cancer a cheque for $25,000 in payment for five seats at the charity premiere of Doug's latest film. The purchaser remained anonymous, too!

DOLLY HAAS' AMERICAN DEBUT

JUST heard that Dolly Haas, that lovely little continental star whom we saw in "Broken Blossoms" and "Spy of Napoleon", has been engaged by Columbia for a stellar role in a new production called "Absent Without Leave". It will be her first picture made in an American studio.

Manhattan Burlesque Houses Refused License By Authorities. What No Afternoon Tease?

Radio Film Digest

BY JAMES LEWIS SMITH

W. C. FIELDS, Paramount's beloved comedian, will make his first appearance on a commercial program, and his second actual broadcast, on May 9, when he will appear on the inaugural program of the new Chase and Sandborn series, featuring Don Ameche and Edgar Bergen. Mr. Fields was heard once before over the air on a testimonial program for Darryl F. Zanuck. Chase and Sandborn program will be heard over the NBC-Red Network at 8.00 P.M., EDST.

Also heard on this opening broadcast will be Miss Ann Harding (Mrs. Werner Janssen), wife of the musical director of the program, in a dramatic sketch.

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ERROL FLYNN and the Mauch twins, Billy and Bobby, were guest stars on the Hollywood Hotel program last evening, May 7, in a condensed version of the Warner Bros. screen success, "The Prince and the Pauper", by Mark Twain. Last night's broadcast also marked the debut of Jerry Cooper as master of ceremonies and singing star, as well as the return after an illness, of Frances Langford.

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A 25 year old Philadelphia composer, Gian-Carlo Menotti, is writing an opera expressly for radio under terms of a commission awarded him recently by the National Broadcasting Company. The new opera is to be ready for world premiere at Radio City by the end of 1937.

Menotti's NBC commission came two weeks after the sensational success of his opera "Amelia al Ballo" in New York, on April 11th.

Menotti has been given a free hand as far as style and content are concerned.

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THE MOST REVEREND Cosmo Gordon Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury, will be the second of two speakers brought to American and Canadian listeners by CBS on Sunday, May 9.

The Archbishop will be heard on this continent over the Columbia network from 3.00 to 3.45 P.M., EDST, in an international broadcast arranged in co-operation with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Earlier in the day, from 1.45 to 2.00 P.M., EDST, Sir Joseph Stamp internationally known industrialist and financier, will speak on "The Economic Side of the Coronation".

Bobby Mauch as King Edward VI, Henry Stephenson as the Duke of Norfolk, and Claude Rains as the Earl of Hereford in a scene from Warner Bros.' "Prince and the Pauper".

IN THE MARITIMES

BY ALICE FAIRWEATHER

AT a Provincial meeting of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire held here recently, a resolution was passed urging the Government to classify motion pictures as "Adult" or "Universal".

A film report given by the Provincial convener, Mrs. J. Davidson gave thanks to Empire Films Limited and Regal Films Limited for assisting her with information and also to all exchanges who had helped her in making up her report as well as naming F. C. Owens, Chairman of the N.B. Board of Censors.

TRAVEL-TALKER TO STAR NEW BRUNSWICK

WORD has come from F. C. Quimby, general manager of M-G-M's Short Subject Department that James A. Fitzpatrick, the well known travel-talker, will visit New Brunswick sometime this coming summer and that a short subject of the beautiful scenery of this Province will be filmed in technicolor. This information has been received in a letter which came to W. H. Golding of the Capitol Theatre, Saint John, and also was received by Premier Dysart.

This will be the fulfillment of a promise made by Louis B. Mayer on the occasion of his visit to Saint John last summer.

Mr. Fitzpatrick has also written Premier Dysart stating that he is looking forward to his visit to this Maritime Province. Mr. Mayer has a very warm spot in his heart for Saint John and the Province of New Brunswick, and on his visit here the cordial welcome accorded him proved that the people of the Province realize his ability and the place he has made for himself in the Motion Picture world. The greeting of many old friends and newer ones was most sincere and all citizens will look forward to a fine piece of publicity in this promised picture showing the many lovely spots in New Brunswick.

FILM EXCHANGE COMPLETED

Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation, Vitagraph Limited and Empire Films have moved into the new "Film Centre" on Hazen Avenue, where they are occupying the splendid quarters in the recently erected building. Much favorable comment has been heard upon the scheme of decoration which, with its silver and black predominating, is very attractive. The fire-proof qualities of the building have called for admiration by the insurance men and fire prevention officials especially. It is the most up to date building in this respect in the city.

CAPITOL, DARTMOUTH, RE-OPENED

H. R. Walker who recently opened the Capitol Theatre at North Dartmouth, N.S., has re-opened the Princess Theatre at Imperoyal a suburb of Dartmouth. Mr. Walker has been in the show business for a great many years and "Walker's Shows", were known in practically every town and village for a long period of time.

Number Of Broadcasts Originating In Hollywood Registers 121 Per Cent Jump Over Last Year.